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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer; amend claims 2-11 and 13 as follows; and add claims 14-16 as indicated below:

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 14, wherein the event detector is coupled or connected to the ~~detector~~ decoder arrangement for producing a sequence of data representative of the analogue signal.

3. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 14, wherein the ~~detector is~~ decoder arrangement includes a Viterbi ~~detector decoder~~ and the ~~decoder is~~ an RLL decoder for decoding the sequence of data and producing n-bit code words which are arranged to be derived together with data indicating whether or not each of said code ~~word~~ words is correct.

4. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said decoder arrangement is arranged to respond to said event detector detecting an event ~~for substantially~~ that causes substantial altering or destroying of said analogue input signal by generating one or more code words representative of said altered or destroyed input signal, together with data indicating that said one or more code words are incorrect.

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5. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the event detector is coupled or connected to said ~~detector~~ decoder arrangement, said ~~detector~~ decoder arrangement being arranged to respond to said event detector detecting an event ~~for~~ substantially that causes substantial altering or destroying of said analogue input signal by generating an invalid encoded sequence of data, so the decoder arrangement is arranged to output code words including data indicating that said code words are incorrect representations of the duration of the event.

6. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said event detector is coupled or connected to said decoder arrangement, said decoder arrangement being arranged to respond to said event detector detecting an event ~~for substantially that~~ causes substantial altering or destroying of said analogue input signal by ~~outputting~~ deriving code words representative of said analogue input signal together with data indicating that said code words are incorrect.

7. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim ~~4~~ 14, wherein the event detector is a thermal asperity detector.

8. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim ~~4~~ 14, wherein said event detector is connected or coupled to the ~~detector~~ or the decoder arrangement by a shift or delay circuit.

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9. (Currently amended) Apparatus according to claim ~~1~~ 14, in combination with a transducer head for a magnetic record.

10. (Currently amended) A method of recovering encoded data, comprising the steps of receiving an analogue input signal and converting it into a digital signal, producing sequences of data representative of said analogue signal, and decoding said sequence of data and outputting it together with data indicating whether or not ~~a~~ the sequence includes an error, monitoring said input signal and detecting an event which substantially alters or destroys said analogue input signal, producing ~~one or more~~ an event ~~signals~~ signal indicating the occurrence of such an event, ~~in response to which~~ producing one or more invalid sequences of data ~~are produced~~ as a result of the event occurring, and deriving on a single communication path a data stream representing said analogue input signal and including data corresponding to the or each sequence resulting from said altered or destroyed analogue input signal ~~indicating that~~ indicates said sequence is incorrect.

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11. (Currently amended) Decoding apparatus for the recovery of encoded data, the apparatus comprising an analogue-to-digital converter for receiving an analogue input signal and converting it into a digital signal, a ~~detector~~ decoder arrangement for (a) producing sequences of data representative of said analogue signal, and ~~a decoder arranged to output~~ (b) deriving data indicating that ~~a sequence~~ one of the sequences includes an error, ~~comprising~~ an event detector for detecting an event ~~for substantially~~ that causes substantial altering or destroying of said analogue input signal, the event detector being coupled or connected to said ~~detector~~ decoder arrangement and arranged to provide as an input the ~~detector~~ decoder arrangement one or more event signals for the duration of a detected event, the ~~detector~~ decoder arrangement being arranged to respond to receipt of said one or more event signals by outputting an invalid encoded sequence of data ~~for causing the decoder to~~ and deriving output code words including data indicating that said code words are an incorrect representative of the duration of the event.

12. (Original) Apparatus according to claim 11, in combination with a transducer head for a magnetic record.

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13. (Currently amended) Decoding apparatus for the recovery of encoded data, the apparatus comprising an analogue-to-digital converter for receiving an analogue input signal and converting it into a digital signal, a ~~detector for~~ decoder arrangement for producing (a) sequences of data representative of said analogue signal, ~~a decoder arranged to~~ and (b) output data indicating that a sequence includes an error, an event detector for detecting an event ~~for substantially~~ that causes substantial altering or destroying of said analogue input signal, said event detector being coupled or connected to said decoder, and arranged to provide as an input to said detector one or more event signals indicating the occurrence of an event ~~for substantially~~ that causes substantial altering or destroying of said analogue input signal, said decoder arrangement being arranged to be responsive to said one or more event signals to output code words representative of said analogue input signal together with data indicating that said code words are incorrect.

14. (New) Decoding apparatus for the recovery of encoded data, the apparatus comprising an analogue-to-digital converter for receiving an analogue input signal and converting it into a digital signal; a decoder arrangement arranged to be responsive to a signal resulting from the digital signal for deriving (a) sequences of the data representative of said analogue signal and (b) an output indicating that a sequence includes an error; an event

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detector for detecting an event that causes substantial altering or destroying of said analogue input signal, said decoder arrangement being arranged to (a) derive one or more invalid sequences as a result of the event occurring, (b) derive a data stream representing said analogue input signal, and (c) respond to the event detector detecting the event by indicating that the one or more invalid sequences derived thereby is or are respectively incorrect.

15. (New) A method of processing a digital signal resulting from readout of an analogue signal that results from reading data from a recording medium, the analogue signal being substantially altered or destroyed as a result of an event occurring during the readout, the method comprising:

decoding the digital signal resulting from the analogue signal that is substantially altered or destroyed, the decoding step resulting in a sequence of bits representing the read out analogue signal, the sequence of bits including what appear to be good and bad data;

supplying the decoded digital signal to a decoder that marks as invalid bad data of the decoded digital signal; and

marking the data that appears to be good and which is derived while the analogue signal is substantially altered or destroyed from being indicated by the decoder as bad data.

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16. (New) Apparatus for processing a digital signal resulting from readout of an analogue signal that results from reading data from a recording medium, the analogue signal having a tendency to be substantially altered or destroyed as result of an event occurring during the readout, the apparatus comprising a detector for an event that causes the analogue signal to be substantially altered or destroyed, a decoder arrangement for the digital signal resulting from the analogue signal that has a tendency to be substantially altered or destroyed, the decoder arrangement being arranged to derive a sequence of bits representing the read out analogue signal, the sequence of bits representing the read out analogue signal having a tendency to include what appears to be good and bad data while the event is occurring, the decoder arrangement being arranged to mark as invalid bad data of the decoded digital signal, the decoder arrangement being coupled with the detector for causing the data that appears to be good and which is derived while the analogue signal is substantially altered or destroyed to be marked as ask what data.